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Citation Presented by the University of Madras

at the time of the Conferment of the Degree of

DOCTOR OF LITERATURE
(D.Litt-Honoris Causa)
to

Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. JAYALALITHA

Mr. Chancellor,

I have great pleasure in introducing to you Selvi Jayalalitha Jayaram, one of the most beloved leaders of Tamil Nadu, who has been populary accepted as 'Puratchi Thalaivi' - the revolutionary leader - and the first ever lady to achieve the distinction of becoming the elected Chief Minister of the State. In Selvi Jayalalitha Jayaram one can see the confluence of artistic finesse, political acumen and administrative efficiency.

Born on February 24, 1948 in a culturally resplendent family in Mysore, Selvi Jayalalitha grew up as a sensitive child, imbibing an innate intelligence and inquisitiveness from the paternal lineage, and resipiscence and concinnity from the maternal ancestry. At three, the child went to Bishop Cotton Girls High School, Bangalore, and from 1958 onwards the young girl continued her studies at Presentation Convent, Church Park, Madras. Later, Selvi Jayalalitha stood first in the school in the Matriculation Examinations of 1964, simultaneously winning a scholarship of Government of India, which was likely to facilitate her career aspirations of studing literature and law in the years to come.

However when her mother Smt. Veda (Sandhya) Jayaram requested the juvenescent daughter to come to the rescue of the family by accepting the numerous offers to join the film world, Selvi Jayalalitha returned the scholarship and submitted herself to the cause of the family, shouldering the burden of supporting a large family with numerous dependents at the tender age of 16.

That her exposure to and articulation of traditional art forms have shaped Selvi Jayalalitha into a fine artiste of Modern Cinema and a winsome personality, has been both undeniable and felicific. Beginning with her first assignment of "Chinnatha Gombe", a Kannada film produced and directed by B.R. Pantulu in 1964, and progressing through her first Tamil release 'Vennira Adai', a remarkable film directed by C.V. Sridhar in the same Year, Selvi Jayalalitha achieved name and fame by co-starring with M.G.R., in the Tamil film 'Ayirathil Oruvan', which was also produced and directed by B.R. Pantulu. Since then Selvi Jayalalitha never looked back, and had displayed a versatile flair for acting in more than 135 films produced in the languages of Tamil, Telugu, Kannada,

Hindi and English. In most of her films, Selvi Jayalalitha donned roles which symbolised social harmony, moral rectitude, greatness of women and the philosophy that 'good essentially triumphs over evil'.

Shaken to the root by the passing away of her mother in 1971, Selvi Jayalalitha gradually withdrew into herself and cloistered herself by choosing to retire from films at the peak of her glory, in 1974. In the decade that followed, her voracious reading of Vivekananda and Gandhiji; her forays into the literary world by penning an autobiographical serial entitled 'Manam Thirandhu Pesukiren', four novels (Uravin Kaithigal, Nenjil Oru Kanal etc.), and several short stories; her series of informative articles for several periodicals; her keen interest in collecting a vast number of books on varied subjects for a personal library; her increasing absorption in intellectual life — all these bore testimony to her growing maturity, revealed her creative mind and her metamorphosis into a graceful personality. It was around this time, that her perceptions of noumenal structurations of reality and her broadening of vision about metaphysical proclivities, became both strong and unequivocal. Her philosophical convictions are expressed in her novels and stories too, which exhibit the sensibility of a sensitive soul to the predicament of mankind. It is in order to transform those concepts and concerns into reality that she has given shape to several schemes of practical importance.

A firm supporter of the upliftment of women, she has given top priority to women's welfare, as is evidenced by the fact that she offered more tickets to women candidates to contest on behalf of her AIADMK party in the 1991 General Elections and provided them with more opportunities to participate in the administration of the Government. Preference for women in all Industrial and Developmental activities and 30% reservation for women in Industries and in other employment opportunities are other positive steps proposed by her for women's welfare. Also, in order to ensure economic security and domestic harmony among the weaker sections of society, especially rural women, the first file to which she affixed her signature as Chief Minister was relating to an order prohibiting the sale of country liquor, in spite of a heavy loss of revenue to the Government's exchequer. Quite alive to the fact that any disruption in normal life affects women more than men, she has geared up the police machinery to maintain law and order to the maximum degree.

In addition to this, the welfare measures she has introduced, including the establishment of a special cell for women in the office of the Labour Commissioner to look after the problems of women and child labour, besides promoting education, training, welfare and advancement of social and economic status of women, are eloquent testimonies of her earnest efforts in the cause of Women's Welfare. Under her able leadership, the Tamil Nadu Government, in this year of Safe Motherhood, is keen on reduction in maternal and infant mortality, safe delivery and birth spacing, enforcement of proper age for marriage and education of women.

Under the guidance of her mentor, the late Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran, Selvi Jayalalitha decided to become 'a diligent and

devoted social worker and party worker' of the AIADMK. Her admission into the party on June 4, 1982 was followed by her introduction to the masses at a mammoth rally and Party Conference at Cuddalore, a few days later. Her astuteness, grit and shrewdness resulted in her rapid ascendance in the party hierarchy, inviting both adoration and acclaim from the rank and file and intense jealousy from senior leaders of the party. Despite several odds, Selvi Jayalalitha discharged her responsibilities with vigour and fortitude as Pro-

paganda Secretary of the Party (1983, 1986), as Chief Electoral Campaigner (1984) and as a Member of the Rajya Sabha (1984-1989). After the departure of her Mentor's soul on December 24, 1987, she mustered courage to rededicate herself to the cause of the people yet again. Her stoic patience in the days of the split in the AIADMK party in 1988; her adept handling of the party during the elections of January 1989; her historic and unprecedented achievement of reuniting the party in March 1989; her memorable role as the first woman oppostion leader of the Tamil Nadu Assembly in 1989; her unshaken, unwavering demeanour in the aftermath of the political assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, all became sure stepping stones to her historic and unparalleled victory in the Assembly Elections of June 1991, in which the people of Tamil Nadu gave her a massive mandate which is unprecedented in its magnitude.

Following unswervingly in the footsteps of her Mentor, Selvi Jayalalitha beleives that progress is possible only through social reforms and that, sincere service to the poor is the gateway to the kingdom of God. Ever since she took over the office of the Chief Minister, she has been endeavouring earnestly to wipe out poverty and to lighten the burden of the less fortunate.

Her concern for the poor and downtrodden has resulted in the acquisition of lands for distribution of pattas in a large measure for construction of houses for Adi Dravidars.

Her anxiety to ensure that education must reach the masses is reflected in the recent decisions of the Government to constitute a State Advisory Committee on Education and a State Council for Higher Education.

The extension of the Total Literacy Campaign to seven more Districts for making 70 lakh more people literate by 1995; launching of a Special Integrated Non-Formal Education Programme by which 1.5 lakh unemployed educated Youth will be engaged to teach 15 lakh school drop-outs thus bringing them back into the educational system, and supply of free books and other aids to them are novel schemes to tackle simultaneously the twin problems of illiteracy and unemployment in Tamil Nadu.

Her Government is also seized of the need to provide compulsory education till the fifth standard to all children in five years' time in a phased manner. A New Scheme for Higher Education for Backward Class Students is on the anvil. In order to encourage students in their studies, she has introduced several scholarship schemes and concessions and instituted prizes. Her desire to open a University to preserve and propagate the Agama Vedas is a clear indication of her keen sense of values, and her desire to preserve our ancient cultural herigate.

Hailing from a family which traditionally valued Indian Art and Culture, Selvi Jayalalitha was trained in classical dance and Carnatic music from the early age of four onwards. In 1960 at the age of twelve, her Bharata-Natya Arangetram took place

at Rasika Ranjani Sabha, Mylapore. She is an accomplished Bharata-Natyam artiste, also proficient in Kuchipudi, Kathak, Mohini Attam and Manipuri, having given hundreds of performances all over India, and abroad, and has sung several songs in her own voice in her films.

Her contribution to the film world is well known, and the long felt need of the film industry for a full fledged Film City is on the way to being fulfilled by her soon, at Taramani.

Because of her staunch belief that our ancient temples are repositories of priceless Indian art, architecture and cultural treasures, she has directed her best efforts to the preservation of these age old monuments of man's spiritual manifestation, and has started a fund for the renovation and maintenance of ancient temples in Tamil Nadu.

Selvi Jayalalitha's ardent desire for the modernization of the Tamil Nadu Police Force has been both beneficial and noteworthy. Her firm determination to accelerate the pace of industrial growth in Tamil Nadu rapidly has resulted in a decision to set up a Permanent Trade Fair Complex with a Convention Hall at Taramani in collaboration with the Trade Fair Authority of India; a software Park at Coimbatore with assistance from the Government of India, a Graphite Factory at Sivagangai, and a Granite Polishing Unit at Dharmapuri by TAMIN. She is equally determined to make Tamil Nadu self sufficient in power generation, and has recently succeeded in concluding a promoter's agreement between TIDCO and Bharat Macnally Ltd. for a thermal power project costing Rs.5,000 crore which will generate 1,500 MW of power, by tapping the lignite deposits in Jayamkondam.

She has given equal priority to agricultural development in the State, by announcing attractive incentives, and prizes for farmers who record the highest yield. She has reserved seats in the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for the children of these prize winning farmers as an added incentive. Similarly, attractive prizes have been instituted for agricultural scientists who produce good varieties of seeds which prove to be popular among farmers and last for a long time. To encourage the growing of trees, it has been declared that anyone planting trees on poromboke land has a right to enjoy the benefits of such efforts.

Selvi Jayalalitha is a multilingual personality with proficiency in English, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Hindi and a fair knowledge as well of Malayalam. She is a symbol of national unity and integration. Her deep love for Tamil is evident from her decision that the study of Tamil will be made compulsory in all schools in the State. Each and every student studying in any of the schools in Tamil Nadu will henceforth have to learn Tamil atleast as a language.

Selvi Jayalalitha is a many faceted personality too. She was an able swimmer in her youth and was also proficient in sports and horse riding. Though her crowded schedule and the never ending administrative demands, leave her with no time for hobbies, she has an abiding interest in music, chess, agriculture, and her first love ofcourse continues to be, reading.

True to her popular title 'PURATCHI THALAIVI' Selvi Jayalalitha, has a strong foundation, a firm foothold and a measured pace in marching forward towards the Twenty First Century. To meet the challenges of the New Century and to see that Tamil Nadu occupies a place of pride in the new era, she has taken painstaking care to prepare her plans for Tamil Nadu's future prosperity with diligence, devotion and dedication.

By reason of her intellectual eminence and attainments,

for her firm determination, creative energy,
freshness of style, clarity of
thought and political sagacity;

for her sublime and affluent sensibilities
in blending the traditional and
modern artistic forms;

for her increasingly ontological explorations
to free the human psyche from bondage;

for her steadfast determination to harness
the constructive potentials of power,
policies and social welfare; and

for her vigorous exposition of the linguistic
and federal consciousness of the
Tamil Nation.

Selvi Jayalalitha has been unanimously recommended by the Syndicate and Senate of the University of Madras as a fit and proper person to receive the Degree of Doctor of Literature *(D.Litt. Honoris Causa),* to which, Sir, I pray that she may be admitted.

Citation read out by Dr. S. Sathikh, Vice-Chancellor of Madras University at the 134th Annual Convocation held at the University Centenary Auditorium, on 19th December, 1991.

134th ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS

CONVOCATION ADDRESS BY

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. JAYALALITHA

"Your Excellency Thiru Bhishma Narain Singh, The Governor of Tamil Nadu and Chancellor of the University, Hon'ble Thiru Eraama Veerappan, Minister for Education, the Government of Tamil Nadu and Pro-Chancellor of the University, Dr. S.Sathikh, Vice-Chancellor of the University, Members of the Syndicate, Senate and Academic Council, Hon'ble Ministers, Distinguished Guests, Members of the Faculty, Dear Graduates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I deem it a great privilege to be invited to address the 134th Annual Convocation of the University of Madras. I shall ever remember and cherish the honour that you have done me today.

My gratitude to you is all the deeper because the University of Madras has been the primary centre of learning in this country, and has occupied the pride of place among the educational institutions of our Nation. For more than a century the Madras University has played a memorable role in the field of higher education, and has been the home of learning for outstanding personalities who have shone in diverse fields, both at the national and international levels. It is impossible for me to list the number or the names of great men and women who have studied or taught in this University, and made memorable contributions to society and the world at large, in the political, economic, scientific or the social arena.

The University of Madras has been the mother of several Universities, and many of the illustrious men and women of this great Alma Mater have brightened the expanding firmament of human knowledge and wisdom. The history of this University is replete with names of mighty minds who have stimulated the intellect and aided in the growth and development of many other seats of learning all over the world.

May I on this auspicious occasion remember with gratitude the outstanding services of these intellectuals, who by their pursuit of excellence as their life's mission and by their wisdom and insight, vision and imagination, have brought glory to this University? This very thought should fill the hearts of every one of you assembled here with a sense of pride, that this University has been your training ground, and the centre for your learning and growth. I am aware of my own limitation in addressing this gathering, but I decided to accept the invitation since that would give me an opportunity to offer my felicitations for the great services rendered by this University, and to greet the eminent and illustrious personalities belonging to this University, who have made their mark in various walks of life. I am, therefore, happy to be in your midst. At the same time, I must confess to a feeling of sorrow, sorrow that is personal, because my beloved Mother who cared for me is not here today to rejoice in the honour being bestowed upon her daughter.

Let me offer my congratulations and greetings to you, on the distinctions that you have earned. This is a momentous day in your lives. This is a day when the period of preparation ends and the period of participation begins for all of you, for graduation is not the end of learning; it is rather the beginning or preparation for an active participation in the social progress and economic development of our Nation. You must remember that you are the privileged few in our society, who have had the good fortune to have a higher education in a University. Not even 10% of the boys and girls of the age group of 17 to 21 can boast of such an opportunity in this country. Therefore your responsibility for the development of our Nation is great indeed. You must make the best use of the knowledge and skills that you have gained here, for the purpose of meeting successfully the many challenges faced by our country. I wish you all success in your endeavours.

A University is not a mere store house of knowledge, nor is it just a training ground for the acquisition of mere skills. Education, per se, is liberating and more so is higher education. Higher education is intended to liberate your mind and heart, to help develop a vision, to enhance one's own quality of life and to help others-less privileged-in society to come up in life. In essence, higher education must help the students to develop a concern for the welfare of other people. The Great Saint Thiruvalluvar rightly asks:

அறிவினான் ஆகுவ துண்டோ பிறிதின்நோய்
தந்நோய்போல் போற்றாக் கடை.

"What becomes of knowledge, or of what use is knowledge, if it does not make one feel the sufferings of others as his own?"

Through the ages our country has recognised the power of learning and had given it the primacy of place in the scheme of social and cultural values. Education was meant primarily for self-improvement. Acquisition of knowledge had self-enlightenment as its goal. The process of learning was continuous throughout one's life, and was a means to enhance the qualities of the individual, so as to enable him to play a useful role in society by adopting proper social values, the underlying basis of which was a profound sense of spirituality. In a true sense, education in the ancient Indian society was meant for the purpose of integrating the individual with society. Education was intended to promote the proper understanding of interpersonal relationships, proper moral conduct and proper social values. The Intellectual, the Scholar, the Teacher, the Guru and the Student all played their respective parts in establishing and preserving values in society, so that peace, harmony and good relationship among the people could be promoted. The goal of education in our ancient society, was truly spiritual.

Arnold Toynbee, the great historian, emphasises this goal of education as being relevant even in the present day. It is worth recalling his words. He says: "I hold that the goal of education ought to be religious, not mercenary. Education ought to be a search for an understanding of the meaning and the purpose of life, and for discovering the right way to live. The right spiritual way is, I believe, fundamentally identical for all human beings. The right practical way too, was the same for all mankind, in the age before the division of labour was made necessary, by the change to complexity from the original simplicity of mankind's social organisation and technology".

The beginning of the industrial revolution heralded the age of the scientific temper, and this in turn laid the foundation for a technological civilisation, particularly in the West. All these produced momentous changes in man's attitude towards education. Education became the means of living. Acquisition of knowledge was considered to be a source of livelihood. Possession of educational and technical qualifications was only a method by which any person could improve his standard of life, or conditions of living. Technology meant division of labour, and this in turn demanded possession of specialised skills. Science and specialisation went hand in hand. It was no longer a question of how wide a person's understanding was, how deep his knowledge, or how sincere his intentions to acquire learning. The paramount necessity was to acquire skills of a specialised nature, which would help a person to fit into the industrial milieu of modern society. The test of success in the pursuit of material welfare, was the degree of specialisation which each person acquired and mastered.

After our country achieved Independence in 1947 and adopted the way of the Western world in the development of science and material culture, our educational system and learning institutions began to adapt themselves to the requirement of the changing culture, and this naturally put the country firmly on the path of specialised higher learning.

However, today, the field of education in our country, bristles with enormous complexities. There is a compelling need to provide universal primary education to all the children of our country, as quickly as possible. The vast masses of our population who have not had the benefit of formal education in schools, have to be given the

rudiments of knowledge so that they can be brought into the mainstream of life. Our educational system has to deal with a frighteningly enormous number of young people, who have to be given socially and economically productive occupations, consistent with the growth of technology. The compulsions of industrial progress, the impact of the global economy, and the adoption of high levels of technology, call for an increasing number of vocationally trained and highly skilled young persons, with or without University degrees, who can fit into and fill up various employment positions. Underlying all these is the strong and urgent need to upgrade the professional knowledge and expertise of the teachers, so that they are not lost in the race for advanced knowledge. On top of all these is the vast population, growing at an alarming rate, which is clamouring for all these facilities to be made available to it within the shortest possible time. Never before in the past has this country faced a crisis in the field of education of the magnitude that we see today. It is a crisis of confidence in education. Our faith in the ability of education, to stand up to the social and economic requirements of the population, is getting slowly eroded, at least in the minds of the new generation, which is expected to derive all the benefits from the very system of education that we are providing. Adoption of wrong policies, or wrong approaches, or provision of inadequate infrastructure, or laying down wrong norms, or setting ourselves unrealistic goals can accentuate this crisis. The important aspects of this crisis could be listed as follows:

1. Eradication of mass illiteracy.
2. Universalisation of primary education;
3. Structuring the educational curriculum for socio-political awakening;
4. Promotion of a feeling of oneness, a sense of national integration, and abolition of the differences brought about by communalism, casteism and other evil forces;
5. Emphasis on science and technology;
6. Expansion of educational opportunities;
7. Development of the right attitudes and values, bringing about a humane and compassionate approach towards various problems;
8. Provision of the right quality of social education;
9. Expansion of job oriented education, based on the acceptance and promotion of science and technology, right from the schools.

These characteristics may seem to be daunting and may appear to defy solution. But there is no need to feel pessimistic or gloomy. In our Constitution, in our Planning for Education we have a correct appreciation of the role of education, and we have made great strides forward. But, what is of concern, is the inadequacy of our effort and input when compared to the magnitude of the problem that we have on hand.

The Kothari Commission said: "The destiny of India is now being shaped in our classrooms". We are the masters of our destiny and the architects of our own values. We should therefore pool our collective intellectual, physical and material resources, to give proper and sound education the highest priority, and to formulate policies of education, which will take note of the complexities of our Nation, and provide for the welfare of our people.

In the age of technological civilisation, education in the conventional method, needs to be supplemented by vocational training for special branches of knowledge and skill. School education alone is not sufficient, for the full development of potential and qualification of individual abilities. Each person has different talents. Each one has his or her own merits and qualities, and the key to meaningful use of talents lies in tapping the potential, awakening these traits, and applying them in daily life and practical situations. Performance in school or college ought not to be the sole criterion by which a person's abilities are to be judged. Not all bright students turn out to be productive and useful citizens in later life, and many persons who were not considered outstanding students, and who were not conspicuous by their talents in class, became eminent, highly respected and outstanding members of society in their later lives. Therefore, the Degrees, or the qualifications that students obtain on leaving school or college, must be regarded not as a lifelong assessment, but as merely a professional judgement.

Hence, there is a need for continual education, not merely of the teacher but also of the student as well. Continual education has become a matter of necessity, all the more because our knowledge is increasing, and scientific advancement is taking place all the time. Human abilities are diverse, and these diverse abilities are socially always valuable. Each individual's unique abilities must be discovered and fostered. This can be done by giving students opportunities for using practical experience, and the kind of education in which theory and practice are combined, so as to supplement, complement, and stimulate each other.

While we must launch our search for excellence, we must also obtain a certain basic level of satisfac-

tion in providing minimum facilities to everyone. Jean-Paul Sartre raised the question, which has now become famous; "What can literature do for the starved?" We may as well raise another question: "What can education do for the starved?" Posed in this dramatic manner, the question looks incapable of solution. We have first to feed the stomach, before the brain can be put to use; but both the tasks are equally important. I recognise that the educational policies so far implemented in our country, have to some extent helped to solve this problem of the vicious circle. I do admit that enormous strides have been made in shaping and tailoring education, to meet the specific needs of our people. We have introduced a massive programme of universal primary education, adult education, vocational education, specialised education at higher levels and the rest, so as to meet the social and economic needs of our people. We have also tried our best to provide appropriate infrastructure such as buildings, laboratories, research institutions, training institutions, and the like. For example, our own State has made great strides in the field of education. We have achieved a good degree of success in literacy profile. The 1991 census reveals that 63.72% of the population above 7 years of age in Tamil Nadu are literate. Among the large number of States of our country, Tamil Nadu stands next only to Kerala. Our primary education programme has achieved major successes, thanks to the Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Noon Meal Programme. We have also achieved great progress in University education. Our young people have perfomed outstandingly in diverse fields of scientific and technological education. Your own University's contribution in this regard has been significant.

We are proud of these achievements. At the same time, we cannot help entertaining a feeling, that our educational system is contributing to the alienation of man from society. With excessive specialisation, emphasis upon short-term and temporary goals,our educationalsystem may make students forget or ignore the essential values of living. A poor society such as ours, that takes all the trouble and pays for the education of the student, is morally right if it expects something out of the student, and out of the educational system, for the promotion of general welfare. Arnold Toynbee put it rightly when he said: "Every entrant into any profession, ought to pledge himself to use his special knowledge and skill, for serving his fellow human beings and not for exploiting them. He should give his obligation of service a priority over his incidental need to make a living for himself and for his family. Maximum service, not maximum profit, is the objective to which he should dedicate himself". Arnold Toynbee rightly stresses the need to keep away from the crushing influences of individualism, which can be the bane of excessive specialisation in the field of education. The need to give rather than to take, is a very important factor in a society such as ours, where millions of people have to be provided for, in all ways. The entire community must benefit from the kind of education that we impart to the students. Education must be for the benefit of society and not vice-versa. This means that our educational system must be capable of inculcating these basic values in the mind of the student. Petty considerations, narrow-mindedness, inculcation of communal or caste feelings, or other forms of hatred through education, must be eschewed altogether. This requirement is a matter of vital concern to all of us, especially in the current context, when fissiparous tendencies are acquiring false prestige. The first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said: "In India, the first essential is the maintenance of unity of the country, not merely the political unity, but the unity of mind and heart, which discards the urges to separate and disunite, and which breaks down the barriers which are raised in the name of religion, or in between State and State, or in any other form. It is of the first importance that we should not lose ourselves in passion and violence. National integration and coherence is a matter of vital importance today". These prophetic words remain true to this day.

On this memorable occasion when you wear the Academic garb symbolising your graduation, I request you to keep in mind, that education is a continuing or unceasing phenomenon, and that education means self-improvement. There is need for competitiveness, but that should be of a constructive kind. There is need for individual progress, but that should be in the best and larger interest of society. There is need to yoke Science and Technology to economic progress, but that should be not at the expense of anybody, but with due consideration of the need for social justice. Sound education should help a person develop a personal identity, a social identity and also a national identity. That is the only way by which we can seek to achieve greatness for our country. Progress consists in setting clear goals for ourselves. But as Mahatma Gandhi always taught us, the means are equally important. A little understanding of this will make us better human beings, and more useful members of society.

I congratulate all the young people here, who have earned their Degrees and won laurels. I extend my best wishes to everyone of you for a very bright future in the service of our countrymen, and our fellow human beings."

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

SPEECH OF
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. JAYALALITHA

Honourable Prime Minister, Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning Commission, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and members of the National Development Council,

At the outset I wish to extend my greetings to all of you, as we are gathered here to discuss some important issues relating to national development. We have to cast aside the mood of despondency reflected in the macro economic situation, and get on with the urgent task of nation building in the Eighth Plan.

The unfortunate events of the recent past, the Gulf War and the consequent economic crisis have cast serious doubts on the relevance of planning in ensuring growth with stability. Inflation has to be contained. State Governments, which are so much closer to the people in their everyday life, have had to bear the brunt of the adverse criticism. While structural adjustments are undertaken, we should safeguard the poor against their adverse effects. In planning for the future, we should pledge our total and unflinching commitment to contain inflation.

It is heartening to note the specific shift in the scope and focus of planning. The highly centralised system we have adopted in the past, has to give place to a process which unleashes the growth impulses in the Indian economy. While endorsing the broad objectives outlined in the approach paper, I wish to highlight some directions which we need to take.

Planning should not become an instrument of holding back growth in States which have to adopt different strategies. Tamil Nadu, which is not well endowed with natural resources, would have to adopt a much more aggressive, outward leaning growth strategy. When we are formulating the Eighth Plan, we should allow States to be innovative in charting out their growth strategies.

Agriculture, and in association, a vibrant non farm sector in rural areas will continue to provide the bulk of new employment. Tamil Nadu has virtually exhausted its surface water potential for irrigation, and has very limited balance ground water potential. I have been consistently pleading for a River Waters Grid, transferring surplus waters which go to the sea to the semi arid regions of the country. I do hope a beginning will be made in the Eighth Plan on the Peninsular River Waters Grid. This is by no means an insurmountable task and can be realised if the Centre takes the lead.

Tamil Nadu has not seen a single substantial Central investment

worth the name for more than two decades. A survey of the pipeline of Central Public Sector Projects for the Eighth Plan shows that Tamil Nadu's share is one of the smallest. I do hope the Centre will come forward to sanction more Central Public Sector Projects for Tamil Nadu at least now. An early start should be made on the Southern Gas Grid to bring gas to Tamil Nadu.

The new direction of allowing the private sector to participate in core sectors is welcome. We cannot afford basic infrastructural development to be stifled by an unimpressive public sector performance. In Tamil Nadu we have proposed an integrated lignite mining and thermal generation project at Jayamkondacholapuram. This massive project in the joint sector involving a total investment of more than Rs.5,000 Crores will generate 1,500 MW of electricity and will enable Tamil Nadu to meet its energy requirements substantially. I earnestly hope this project will be cleared quickly so that we can get started on it.

The emphasis now has to be on how to integrate the Indian economy with the global economy. A specific strategy to create a trade corridor between Tamil Nadu and Singapore is overdue. This will be facilitated by locating a free port in Tamil Nadu. We shall take all steps to make this a success.

I am quite concerned with the poor investment on roads, both on new construction and maintenance. The Central Road Fund was specifically augmented for this purpose. The funds have not however been made available to the States as yet, inspite of a resolution of Parliament. This is a Fund for the specific purpose of road development, and it is essential that these additional funds are given to the States for essential road development. We are also actively pursuing the concept of toll collections to finance accelerated road improvement programmes.

Planning will have no meaning if it does not focus on employment and poverty alleviation. While welcoming the thrust on integrating poverty alleviation programmes, I would like to stress the need for giving States greater flexibility in planning and implementing these programmes.

Tamil Nadu has always placed the highest emphasis on human resource development. It has a splendid record in population limitation programmes. We have organised an effective safety net, consisting of health and nutrition services, primary education, water supply and social security programmes, to protect the weak and the poor. We shall strengthen these efforts in the Eighth Plan. Our success in population limitation should not be held against us, and I would like to seek a specific reassurance that all Central assistance flows are linked to the 1971 population throughout the Eighth Plan period.

While we have an indication of the total public sector outlay in the Eighth Plan, we do not as yet know the relative shares of the Central and State Plans. I would like to highlight the need to ensure adequate resource flows to the States, to ensure that the relative size of State Plans does not drop below the Seventh Plan level. The share of States in market borrowings should be stepped upto 40% and should reach 50% by the end of the Eighth Plan.

The recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission which have been adopted by the Centre, have to be reviewed as the projections of State deficits were made on certain assumptions on prices which have gone awry in the last two years. Tamil Nadu is facing a massive non plan deficit although the Ninth Finance Commission projected a non plan surplus. While the focus has been on the country's economic crisis and the Centre's fiscal deficit, adequate attention has not been paid to the dismal financial situation faced by the States. The mounting debt service liability of States' is a cause for considerable concern. In this situation it is essential that as a measure of relief to all States, the shareable pool of Union Excise duties is stepped upto 50 percent, making available the extra 5 percent to all States. Unless this is done most States will find it difficult to even get started on the Eighth Plan. The Plan revenue grants awarded by the Ninth Finance Commission should also be reviewed with reference to the actual emerging situation.

I would also like to draw attention to the immediate need to strengthen the resource base of States. We are all agreed that the Consignment tax should be levied. The few details on exemptions and rates can be sorted out quickly. I consider that this Council should resolve to levy the Consignment tax, and the Centre should introduce a bill to provide for this levy during the next session of Parliament. Small Savings, another important resource available to States is showing a negative trend this year. This has to be corrected without any delay.

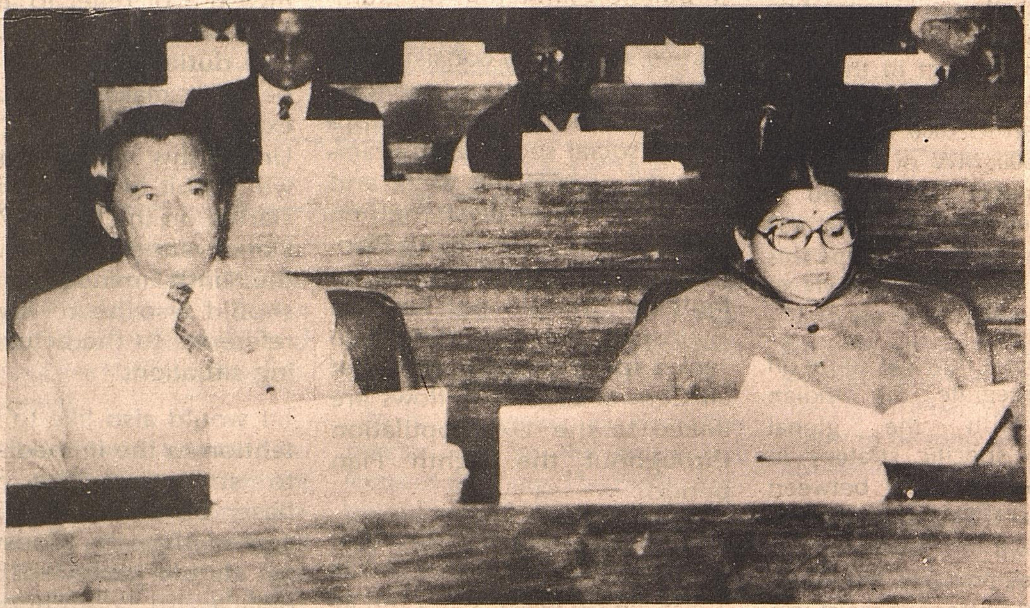
Let me turn to the question of transfer of certain Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the States. The proposed transfer

of schemes does not amount to much, but I welcome the spirit behind the direction now taken. There is an assurance that during the Eighth Plan more schemes will be transferred to the States. The transfer of schemes should also be accompanied by a transfer of the full assistance for these schemes. The proliferation of new Centrally Sponsored Schemes should be controlled, and only schemes of genuine national importance and of an inter-State character should be allowed to continue. Even in these schemes the States should be allowed considerable flexibility in utilising the resources.

I also endorse the intention to restore to the percapita income based component, the total weight of 20%. In view of the fact that some States will be left out on a percapita income based on the national average, I commend for your consideration the question of whether the 20% component can be distributed on the basis of the distance from the maximum income. Tamil Nadu has a special problem. In the Seventh Plan, Tamil Nadu was found to have a per capita income on the border or just marginally above the national average. In view of the harshness involved in cutting off Tamil Nadu from the 20 percent component distributed

and these are still to be resolved. We have reason to believe that Tamil Nadu's per capita income is overstated in absolute terms and on a comparable basis. The comparable per capita income estimates should also be based on the 1971 population, as a just reward for States which have done well in limiting their population. If this is done, Tamil Nadu's percapita income will be well below the national average.

Even in the past, this Council has disregarded income estimates which are not truly reflective of the situation. I would like to suggest that the



We have on the agenda the important issue of the distribution of Central assistance and market borrowings to States. The modified Gadgil formula before the revisions in October 1990, had on the whole worked well and did not require major changes. I endorse the suggestion to restore the weight to the population factor from 55% to 60%. I have no doubt that this will continue to be based on the 1971 population throughout the Eighth Plan period.

to States with a per capita income below the national average, a special dispensation was made which included market borrowings. Now as per the Central Statistical Organisaton's (CSO) data for 82-85 Tamil Nadu's per capita income is clearly below the national average. The CSO's data for 84-87 or 85-88 show Tamil Nadu's per capita income slightly above the average. We have raised certain issues relating to CSO's income estimates for the later period

income estimates for 82-85 should be adopted as was done by the Ninth Finance Commission. If for any reason this is not acceptable, Tamil Nadu should continue to be given a special dispensation both in Central assistance flows and in market borrowings, as in the Seventh Plan.

Ten percent is proposed to be distributed on the basis of tax effort, fiscal management and certain performance indicators. While Tamil Nadu has

a very good record in the three performance indicators, namely: population limitation, universalisation of primary education, and performance in externally aided projects, its future performance will necessarily be relatively smaller with the high levels already achieved. If such performance indicators are to be adopted, it is necessary to look at a long term trend. The fiscal management indicator reflects on the position in the Seventh Plan period, which is equally well captured by the tax effort criterion. Let us restore the modified Gadgil formula, adopting 10% for the tax effort criterion.

Ten percent for special problems is to be retained and is to be distributed largely on a discretionary basis. Tamil Nadu did not get a proper allocation in 1991-92, recording one of the lowest increases in plan assistance. Tamil Nadu is not in a position to achieve even a minimum plan. Its per capita plan outlay is well below the national average. The threat posed by foreign militants in the State has been contained, but this has imposed severe limitations on what we can do to raise resources. Tamil Nadu has to be given special protection in the ten percent component to be extended on a discretionary basis. May I request a specific assurance on this issue?

I note that in distributing market borrowings, 30 percent is to be given to States with a percapita income below the national average. I have already highlighted the harshness involved in deciding the distribution to States having a per capita income below the national average. Given the increased cost of these borrowings, the pool meant for backward States can be kept at 20 percent. Tamil Nadu should be made eligible for a special allocation of market borrowings in this 20 percent pool, or alternatively the entire pool can be distributed on a distance from the maximum basis. May I request a specific safeguard for Tamil Nadu in this allocation?

The agenda notes indicate that 100 percent assistance is being given in respect of all externally aided projects. This has not yet come into force. We continue to receive only 70 percent in respect of projects in the infrastructure sector. The Centre must pass on 100 percent assistance in respect of all externally aided projects, and this should include all ongoing projects. Externally aided projects allow the scope to States to innovate, and chart out new growth Strategies. No attempt should be made on grounds of equity to inhibit States from planning and implementing these projects.

Our special problems with a sea border have only now found some recognition. In continuing area development programmes in the Eighth Plan, special provisions have to be made for Tamil Nadu to tackle its coastal area/sea border problems.

I have spelt out very briefly our main concern as we stand at the threshold of the Eighth Plan. It is important, as is evident from the situation in Punjab and Kashmir, that no feeling of alienation which will disrupt the fabric of our national integration should be allowed to creep in. Tamil Nadu, in the national mainstream, while partaking of the hardship and sacrifices, will justifiably strive to seek its due share in national growth and development.

Thank you.

Address delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha at the National Development Council, New Delhi, on 23rd December 1991.

I Wrapper

His Excellency the Governor, Thiru Bhishma Narain Singh, conferring the degree of Doctor of Literature on the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha on 19th December 1991.

II Wrapper

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha is being honoured with a shawl by Tmt. M.S. Subbu Lakshmi at the inaugural function of the 65th Conference of the Music Academy on 18th December 1991.

CHIEF MINISTER'S APPEAL TO THE PRIME MINISTER FOR ADEQUATE COMPENSATION TO THE TAMIL VICTIMS AFFECTED IN THE RECENT KARNATAKA RIOTS

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha called on the Prime Minister of India on 23rd December, 1991 and was with him for more than 45 minutes. She had discussions on a variety of subjects pertaining to Tamil Nadu. The Chief Minister presented a memorandum to the Prime Minister of India describing the pathetic condition of thousands of Tamil people affected by the recent riots in Karnata State. The memorandum highlighted the nature of the injuries and damages caused to the unfortunate Tamil people of Karnataka besides giving details of various political and chauvinist groups of Karnataka State that perpetrated the violence. The Chief Minister handed over photographs of the injured Tamil people and the damages caused to the properties of Tamils in Karnataka. The two bulk volumes of information collected by the Collectors of various districts in Tamil Nadu containing names and addresses of the affected Tamil people, details of the injuries caused to them and damages to their properties were also presented to the Prime Minister of India. In the course of the discussions the Chief Minister pointed out that it was quite possible for the people of Tamil Nadu to engineer a similar situation in Tamil Nadu against the Kannadigas living in Tamil Nadu, but the people of Tamil Nadu had displayed admirable restraint in dealing with the Kannadigas living in Tamil Nadu. In addition, the State Government took adequate care to protect the people of Karnataka origin living in Tamil Nadu and their properties. In particular, whereas the members of the Fans Associations of Kannada Film actor, Raj Kumar were indulging in violence against the Tamil people living in Karnataka, the State Government of Tamil Nadu provided complete protection to Raj

Kumar's residence and property in Madras. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister pointed out to the Prime Minister that this difference in the attitude of the people and the Governments of the Two States was there for the whole of the country to see and to appreciate. The Chief Minister urged the Prime Minister to instruct the Government of Karnataka to provide adequate security and protection for the lives and the properties of Tamils living in Karnataka and to create a proper atmosphere so that they could live there without any fear or anxiety. She also brought to the notice of the Prime Minister that the number of Kannadigas living in Tamil Nadu was equal or perhaps larger than the number of Tamils living in Karnataka and this factor should kept in mind by both the Government of India and the Government of Karnataka, with a view to providing adequate protection to the people of Tamil origin in Karnataka. The Chief Minister said that the restraint shown by the people of Tamil Nadu was worthy of emulation by the whole country. The Chief Minister strongly urged the Government of India to provide adequate compensation to the Tamil victims, and she also requested the Central Government to see to it that the Government of Karnataka also paid adequate compensation to these victims. The Prime Minister assured the Chief Minister that the Central Government would do its best to provide adequate compensation to the affected people on its own besides instructing the Government of Karnataka to do likewise.

As regards the Cauvery dispute, the Prime Minister gave a firm reassurance to the Chief Minister that he would see to it that the interests of Tamil Nadu are not adversely affected in any way and would be fully protected.

In the course of the discussions, the Chief Minister pointed out that there has been no Central Investment in Tamil Nadu for the past two decades and requested for adequate central investment in Tamil Nadu during the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Chief Minister in particular mentioned the proposal of M/s. Petrofil Co-operative Limited, a Government of India Public Sector Undertaking to set up a polyester textile unit at a cost of Rs.440 crore and requested that this unit should be established in Tamil Nadu and said that the Government of Tamil Nadu would provide all the necessary facilities besides several concessions.

The Chief Minister also pressed for formulation and implementation of an Integrated Natural Gas Development Plan to develop Cauvery offshore gas in the Cauvery basin to that the gas production could be stepped up to the tune of 1 million cubic metres a day and this gas could be utilised for setting up a Mega fertiliser plant with a production capacity of 1,000 tonnes of urea a day at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore. The Prime Minister assured the Chief Minister that her requests would be considered favourably.

CHIEF MINISTER SPEAKS TO THE PRIME MINISTER

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, spoke to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 26th December, 1991 and apprised him of the situation arising out of the continuing tension in Karnataka, particularly in places like Chamaraja Nagar, Kollegal, T.Naraspur and Gundlupet. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister informed him that in addition to the twenty five thousand and two hundred and thirty seven Tamil people who have already moved into Tamil Nadu, about twelve thousand Tamil people are reported to be kept in camps in the above mentioned four places, presumably to protect them against further attacks by the Kannadigas. The Chief minister informed the Prime Minister that these persons have lost all their belongings and have suffered very heavy damages amounting to crores of rupees. As these people are anxious to move to Tamil Nadu immediately, the Chief Minister urged the Prime Minister to despatch adequate Paramilitary Forces to Karnataka for providing escort to the Tamil people intending to come to Tamil Nadu. The Chief Minister also informed the Prime Minister about the set back in the situation in Karnataka, particularly in the Districts bordering Tamil Nadu. This has caused concern to the people of Tamil Nadu but there has not been any untoward incident in Tamil Nadu State. Only about four hundred Kannadigas went to Karnataka a few days earlier and most of them have come back. The Prime Minister assured the Chief Minister that he would immediately send two Senior Officers from the Government of India to make an on-the-spot assessment in Karnataka and that he would ask the Chief Minister of Karnataka to do the needful, and the sufficient para military forces would be provided.

ALL-PARTY MEETING

The All-Party Meeting on the Cauvery waters issue was convened by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha on 30th December 1991, and it was decided at the meeting to observe a 12 hour bandh on January 2nd to condemn the atrocities perpetrated on the Tamils in Karnataka and the failure of Karnataka and Central Governments to provide adequate protection to the Karnataka Tamils.

The bandh is also to impress upon the Union and the Karnataka Governments to take immediate steps to provide the necessary security to the Tamils in that State.

Expressing deep concern over the attack on the Tamils who had lived for generations and worked for the betterment of Karnataka, the all party meeting condemned the failure of the

Aid Centres for Tamil Victims from Karnataka

Soon after learning about the inflow of Tamil People from Karnataka, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, on 26th December, 1991 directed the setting up of Reception Centres to receive those unfortunate persons, and to provide them food, shelter and medical attention. The concerned District Collectors were directed to set up such Centres as an emergency measure, and there was no time to go into the nuances of names and how such Centres should be called. However, from News Reports, it is seen that there have been some comments on the naming of the Centres. Irrespective of the names, the Camps are intended to provide all the facilities to the Tamil people and clear instructions have been given to the District Collectors to take care of them in every way and the Collectors are fully engaged in the task. They have been instructed to name these Camps as "Karnataka Tamils Aid Camp" in English and 'கர்நாடக மாநில தமிழர் உதவி முகாம்' in Tamil.

Government there to provide adequate protection to them.

The meeting endorsed and commended the steps taken by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister to maintain the law and order in the State in the face of the violent incidents in Karnataka. The meeting noted that the Chief Minister had made repeated requests to the Prime Minister in person, over telephone and through telex messages and letters to prevent attacks on the Tamils in the neighbouring State. She had urged the Centre to despatch the Army or other Central forces to the riot-hit areas in Karnataka.

Pointing out the unprecedented situation created by the crossing over from Karnataka of over 70,000 persons to Tamil Nadu and the heavy financial commitment on the State Government in providing food and shelter to victims, the meeting demanded that the entire expenditure incurred be borne by the Central Government.

The meeting called upon the Karnataka Government to pay adequate compensation to the Tamils who were victims of violence in that State. It suggested that the Centre could set up a Commission with a Supreme Court Judge presiding to fix the quantum of compensation. Also, the Centre should advise the Karnataka Government to create a conducive situation for the Tamils to return to that State.

RECEPTION CENTRE FOR TAMIL VICTIMS FROM KARNATAKA

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, reviewed the situation arising out of the large scale influx of the Tamil people affected by the disturbances in Karnataka into various districts of Tamil Nadu.

In view of the continuing influx of large numbers of Tamil people from Karnataka, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has directed that Reception Centres should be set up by the Collectors of Nilgris, Coimbatore, Periyar, Dharmapuri, Salem and North Arcot-Ambedhkar Districts to receive the Tamil victims, arrange for their immediate medical attention, and to provide them food and shelter, till they are able to move to their native places or back to Karnataka. The Collectors have been directed to provide all facilities for them. They have also been told to select suitable places at the border points to set up these Reception Centres.

The Conference of District Collectors And Police Officers

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha inaugurated the Joint Conference of the District Collectors and the Police Officers on the 16th December, 1991 at Madras. The Joint Conference was attended by all the Cabinet Ministers, Senior Officers of the State Government. At the Joint Conference the following subjects were discussed indepth.

1. Review of Law and Order situation.
2. Action to contain the Militants and the left extremists.
3. Steps to prevent religious and communal clashes.
4. Students and maintenance of law and order.
5. Control of sale of explosives.
6. Effective enforcement of Prohibition Act.
7. Review of functioning of Srilankan refugee camps.

All the District Collectors, Superintendents of Police of the Districts took part in the discussion and presented a picture with respect to each of their district and offered a number of suggestions.

In the afternoon, an exclusive Conference of the District Superintendents of Police and State Police Officers was held. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu presided over the Conference. Cabinet Ministers, Senior State Officers, Chief Secretary and the Home Secretary were present.

Director-General of Police Thiru S. Sripal, Thiru V. Vaikunth, Director- General of Police, State Police Recruitment Board, Thiru K.K. Rajasekaran Nair, Director-General of Police, Police Housing Corporation, Inspector General of Police, Law and Order Thiru W.I. Dewaram, Inspector-General of Police, Crimes, Thiru E. Hariharan, Inspector-General of Police (Int.) Thiru S. Ganapathy and Inspector-General of Police, Prohibition & Enforcement Thiru A.X. Alexander, the Superintendent of Police Thiru N. Appadurai (Coimbatore) and Thiru

R.N. Sawani, Superintendent of Police, North Arcot Ambedkar District took part in the discussions. Subjects covered included the review of crime, including white-collor crimes, control of narcotics and drug related offences, rationalisation of jurisdiction of Inspectors of Police, strengthening of Tamil Nadu Police Force, Police Housing Corporation and other Welfare measures and review of security system, review of idol theft incidents, control of traffic in Madras and other urban centres, removal of cattle menace on urban roads, re-introduction of spot fine system by the traffic police and review of Prohibition enforcement.

CHIEF MINISTER'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS:

"I have great pleasure in meeting you today on the occasion of the inauguration of the Conference of the District Collectors and the Superintendents of Police. Though I met the District Collectors in a more informal manner a few weeks ago, this Conference is the first of its kind after the new Government took over. I am happy to meet all the Collectors again as well as the Superintendents of Police. This Conference has given me yet another opportunity of meeting all the Secretaries and the Heads of Departments, after the last meeting I had with them soon after the new Ministry was formed.

As you know, the new Government which assumed office in June, 1991, had to face the major task of restoring the people's faith in the ability of the Government to maintain law and order. I need not mention how the people's confidence was shattered by the ghastly bomb blast which killed the former Prime Minister of India, Thiru Rajiv Gandhi. Extremism and militancy had been given a free run in our State, and the atmosphere of peace, secularism and good-will for which our State was so well known in the past had been bad-

ly disturbed. These were the circumstances which compelled the new Government to take upon itself the task of restoring law and order in Tamil Nadu as a matter of the highest priority. The Government proceeded with this job with firm resolve and full conviction and introduced immediately a number of measures to revamp the law and order administration and infuse confidence in the police personnel while boosting their morale. I am glad to say that with your administrative abilities, sincerity and zeal, the Government has been able to achieve remarkable success in the last few months in improving the tone and tenor of the administrative machinery. I must take this opportunity to thank all the Officers and men and women of the Police force, and all the officers and staff of the State administration who have shown exemplary devotion to duty in making our task easier.

But, we cannot afford to be complacent. We cannot say that we have been able to totally wipe out the militancy, fissiparous tendencies, communal passions and seditious forces from our midst. You will agree with me that terrorism, extremism and the like have no place in a multi-dimentional democracy like ours. The district administration has to be fully alert to the first signs of fissiparous tendencies and extremist forces, and take all steps to eradicate them before they rear their ugly heads with full force. I take this oppoutunity to fervently appeal to the Collectors and the Superintendents of Police, all the Police Officers and all Officers who are assembled here, to be ever vigilant and watchful against disruptive forces.

No attempt to contain the underlying unrest and overt public violence is bound to succeed without the administration fully devoting itself to the welfare of the people, and conceiving and implementing the developmental programmes with the greatest care. In the context of to-day's poverty situation, rising prices and growing unemployment, if the State fails to fulfil its share of responsibility in ameliorating the difficult conditions of the masses, sooner than later, there is bound to be mass unrest which will become difficult to control. It is the vital responsibility of the district administration to see that this does not happen. The District Collector in a sense are the eyes and ears of the Government. Your ability to understand your local situation, your insight in developing proper remedial measures, your vision for organising developmental work in a manner that meets with the requirements of the local people in your jurisdiction, are going to be crucial in solving the problems of poverty and unemployment. I know that the District Collectors in Tamil Nadu have always come out with flying colours in developmental administration and I would like you to keep up this tradition.

Education, health, housing, poverty-alleviation programmes, provision of basic amenities such as drinking water supply, roads, school buildings, etc., are among the important areas where the needs of the rural people are yet to be fully met. In all these areas, it is necessary that we try to look for an unconventional approach, develop innovative methods and satisfy the needs of the peo-

ple by utilising the local resources as far as possible. For example, the role of education is extremely important if the State is to fulfil the aspirations of the people for higher intellectual and material advancement, and if the goals of equality and social justice are to be achieved. However, formal education alone cannot be adequate to fulfil this task. Even though Tamil Nadu has done well in educational programmes, you will agree that the time has come to convert education from being a mere institutional process to a voluntary social culture. This calls for the mobilisation, enlistment, involvement and support of all sections of society. I am glad to learn that in the seven districts where the Arivoli Iyakkam (அறிவொளி இயக்கம்) has been introduced, the concerned District Collectors are leading the movement with zeal and a commitment to total literacy. I wish them and hundreds of the volunteers participating in this programme a grand success, and I wish to assure you that our Government will do all that is possible to light the lamp of learning in every house in the State.

The Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Noon Meal Programme is a lofty legacy that has been handed down to us and is meant to enable every child in this State to participate in the process of learning. This Government's commitment to this scheme needs no new emphasis. The Collector should continue to ensure proper functioning of the Noon Meal Programme Centres.

Having taken care to feed the young mouths, ensuring their health becomes our next most important responsibility. I will be shortly inaugurating a massive programme of conducting 10,000 free health check-up camps throughout Tamil Nadu during 1991-92. Here again, Collectors have to play a very important role for mobilising the support of the medical professionals, voluntary agencies and the rural people who are mainly intended to benefit from this programme. I call upon the District Collectors and the Officers of the various wings of the health department to evince keen interest in making this campaign also a success.

As elsewhere in the country, Tamil Nadu is also lagging behind in the provision of shelter to the poor. Here again, the District Collectors are responsible for the successful implementation of the housing programmes. Sometime back I had occasion to notice faulty designs, improper execu-

tion and irregular utilisation of funds, compelling me to order stoppage of work. I would like to urge the District Collectors to ensure that no such misdeed is allowed to continue. I am anxious that the houses constructed under the Rural Housing Schemes should be designed, adopting cost effective designs, simple technology and locally available materials, so that the cost of construction is considerably reduced. The scheme of "KATTIDA MAYYAM' (கட்டிட மையம்) announced by HUDCO should be made good use of as a technology transfer programme, for transferring low cost building technology options from the "Lab to the line" and for the skill upgradation of rural masons, carpenters and other artisans.

I find from the notes for this Conference that

our State has been lagging behind other Sates in the performance under the 20-Point Programme. The deficiency must be corrected and a full thrust must be given to the successful implementation of this programme. I urge the Collectors to take all efforts to achieve the targets so as to put the State back in the top position at the All India level.

The rising prices of essential commodities are causing great concern to us. The pressure on the Public Distribution System is mounting. I have had occasion to come across serious malpractices in the functioning of the Public Distribution System. The State Government is incurring very heavy expenditure by way of subsidy for the running of the Public Distribution System. I find detailed notes have been given on the revamping of the Public Distribution System, and I would like to know your response to the suggestions made in the notes. I would like to know the view points of the District Collectors in running an efficient Public Distribution System so that the benefit goes to the really poor people.

We are doing our best to restore the position of Tamil Nadu in the industrial map of our Nation. While a few large projects calling for enormous investments may help to stimulate the economy and provide the much needed multiplier effect, I am convinced that the problem of unemployment in the rural areas, particularly among the uneducated women, can only be solved locally by creating a proper and congenial atmosphere for the growth of cottage and small industries, in the development of subsidiary occupations like poultry, dairying, etc., and in the promotion of infrastructural activities which can provide jobs for the unemployed people. Here again the District Collectors have a very important role to play, especially, in creating a suitable climate by tapping institutional assistance to the maximum extent possible, and in providing the necessary stimulation for the growth of industries. I would like the Collectors to apply their mind to these aspects and offer positive suggestions. I have promised that the Government would create large employment opportunities for rural women, and I urge the Collectors to concentrate on this scheme and help to achieve the targets.

I find from the notes given here that many more subjects of relevance to the maintenance of law and order, and developmental programmes are coming up for discussion. I trust that the District Collectors have come fully prepared to offer their view points on the various subjects. Let me assure you that we shall take full note of your suggestions. Your recommendations will help us to formulate the necessary policies for the fulfilment of the basic objectives for which our party has been voted to power, with a massive majority.

I hope that the deliberations of this Conference will prove to be constructive and purposeful."

The Chief Minister held discussions with the District Collectors on the second day of Collectors' Conference at Secretariat, Madras on 17th December, 1991.

At the beginning of the Conference the Chief Minister distributed District Awards and Personal Awards for achievement of target and best performance under Small Savings for the year 1990-91 to the District Collectors. Special Award for highest collection among Districts was given to Thiru M. Kalaivanan, I.A.S., Collector of Coimbatore. The District Awards were given to Thiru P.A. Ramaiah, I.A.S., Collector, Salem District, Thiru R. Vijayakumar,I.A.S., Collector, Trichy District, Thiru K. Gnanadesikan, I.A.S., Collector, Kamarajar District, Thiru C.S. Raja Mohan, I.A.S., Collector, Thiruvannamalai-Sambuvarayar District, Thiru Prithiviraj Langthasa, I.A.S., Collector, Dindigul-Anna District and Thiru Rajiv Nayan Choubey, I.A.S., Collector, Kanyakumari District.

The personal Awards were given to Thiru M. Kalaivanan, I.A.S., Collector, Coimbatore District, Thiru A.M. Raman, I.A.S., Former Collector of Coimbatore, Thiru Surjit K. Choudhry, I.A.S., Former Collector of Salem, Thiru R. Vijayakumar, I.A.S., Collector, Trichy District, Thiru K. Dheenadhayalan, I.A.S., Former Collector of Trichy, Thiru T.S. Sridhar, I.A.S., Former Collector of Kamarajar District, Thiru P. Kolappan, I.A.S., Former Collector of Tiruvannamalai-Sambuvarayar District, Thiru Rajiv Nayan Choubey, I.A.S., Collector, Kanyakumari District and Thiru M. Gopalakrishnan, I.A.S., Former Collector of Kanyakumari.

At the Conference the following subjects were discussed indepth:

1. Adi-Dravidar Welfare - Special Programme for untouchability prone areas.
2. Review of Public Distribution System.
   a) Revamping of Public Distribution System
   b) Reconstituting Vigilance Committees for P.D.S.
   c) Review of working of Fair Price Shops
   d) Review of Civil Supplies Enforcement Wing.
3. Review of Total Literacy Campaign in Tamil Nadu
4. a) Economy in Government Expenditure
   b) Small Savings Collection.

5. a) Conduct of Health Camps
   b) Review of functioning of Primary Health Centres, Taluk and District Hospitals.
   c) Family Welfare, Immunisation, Blood Surveillance and Eye Camps.

6. Review of Rural Housing Programmes

7. Review of Drinking Water Programmes

8. a) Toning up of District Administration
   b) Land Records and their updating
   c) Redressal of Public grievances

9. Issues in Rural Development Programmes
   a) Maintenance of combined water supply schemes by local bodies
   b) Compensation for the loss of local cess and cess surcharge on account of natural calamities.
   c) Transfer of Black-topped - bus plying roads from local bodies to Highways and Rural Works Department for maintenance.
   d) Enhancement of local roads grant for maintenance of Panchayat Union roads
   e) Strengthening of the technical organisation at the field level and at the apex level.

10. Review of 20-Point Programme and Anti-Poverty Programme.

11. Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Nutritious Meal Programme:
    a) Encouragement of voluntary effort for repair renovation and construction of buildings
    b) Declaration of holiday on sunday/Festival days
    c) Inspector of Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Nutritious Meal Programme Centres to ensure their proper functioning.

The Ministers, Chief Secretary, Secretaries to Government, various Heads of Departments, District Collectors and Senior State Officials were present.

CHIEF MINISTER'S VALEDICTORY ADDRESS:

"We are about to conclude the two day Conference of the District Collectors and the Superintendents of Police. We started yesterday with a Joint Conference of the District Collectors and the Superintendents of Police; then went on to discuss the subjects relating exclusively to the Police department; and in the course of today we have covered a variety of subjects relating to district administration.

To me, personally, this conference has been a most useful experience, because it gave me an opportunity to meet you and to hear your views on matters which are of great importance to the State. I said yesterday that the District Collectors and the Superintendents of Police have a crucial role to play in the sound administration of the State. I am happy to record that during the discussions, I was able to see that you have the correct perception, the necessary enthusiasm and proper motivation for fulfilling the tasks entrusted to you. You also had an opportunity to know something of the policy angle of the State, with respect to many of the subjects that were discussed. I have no doubt that you will fulfil your responsibilities with zeal and devotion, with professional competence, and above all, with genuine concern for the poor and the down-trodden, at heart.

You have to help us to maintain perfect law and order in the district, and I would be happy to see you coming out with flying colours in this regard. That means a host of things including exercise of personal initiative and assumption of personal responsibility. I have no doubt that you are well equipped in all these aspects.

You have to be ever vigilant and keep a watchful eye on the growth of militant groups, communal trouble mongers, and fissiparous activities, and curb them before they become a powerful force and disturb the peaceful atmosphere of our society.

In the area of development, I see that the Collectors have taken keen personal interest and are pushing through programmes which appeal to them. While I appreciate the degree of innovativeness and motivation and personal initiative, I would like to emphasise, that a minimum programme for the poor such as the 20-point programme has to be given utmost importance and the targets fulfilled. I would like you to design the local programmes for employment of the rural people, particularly the rural women, making use of the resources already ear-marked and allocated to you for various development schemes, and ensure fulfilment of our Government's policy in this regard.

You must take all measures to maintain the price levels in your respective districts. You must push through the procurement programmes with vigour. You must speak to the food grain merchants, wholesalers, restaurant and hotel owners and persuade them to bring down the prices in your districts. I would like to judge your capability

in this regard on the basis of your performance.

You must take deterrent action against smugglers and hoarders, particularly of food grains, under the law. While so doing, please ensure that they do not escape on the basis of flimsy and technical grounds of flaws in your orders or judgements. You must mobilise all local resources to increase production in your district, particularly of important food articles. I would like the District Collectors to take a special interest in vegetable cultivation, horticulture and afforestation or tree planting.

Proper image building of the administration is very important. Kindly see that you develop good public relations which will put you in a position of advantage, when it comes to handling critical or sensitive situation. Please put through imaginative and original programmes for improving the nitty-gritty of district administration, particularly, at the Collectorate, and in the divisional and taluk offices.

The various requirements of the poor people who come to these offices have to be met expeditiously, with the utmost speed and with sympathy. New systems can be developed by the Collectors, which will facilitate speed in administration. I would be happy to see evidence of your originality in this regard in the next few months.

I now take leave of you at this juncture, with an assurance that I will be meeting you again soon, either in groups like this, or individually, so as to keep myself informed of further developments.

I extend my very best wishes to every one of you.'

Dr. M.G.R.

"M.G.R. was a charismatic leader whose life pulsated with the common people. M.G.R. thought and felt with the masses and for the masses."

—Thiru R. Venkataraman
President of India.

"Mr. M.G.R. was a great leader of the people with great sensitivity, compassion, strong adherence to principles of secularism, socialism, communalism, democracy and non-alignment. He was the great patriot who had also the quality of fathoming the true interests of the people even in a very complex situation. Mr. M.G.R. was deeply loved by all sections of the people irrespective of community, creed, religion or income levels all over the country. M.G.R. was a nation builder who had the vision of one who is destined to make giants out of men.

—Thiru Sankar Dayal Sharma,
Vice-President of India.

"MGR's life exemplified the ethical and moral values which had kept the country united through the centuries. A patriot imbued with profound pride in the country's heritage, for whom the unity of the country was sacrosanct and preserving her integrity a sacred duty. MGR soared above all narrow divisions and petty loyalties.

His name was synonymous with the struggle for justice-justice for the poor, especially the women. When he became the Chief Minister he diverted the energies and resources of the State towards those who needed it most. He was adored in life as well as on the screen as he was dedicated to the cause of the downtrodden".

—Thiru Rajiv Gandhi
Former Prime Minister of India.

Inauguration of the 65th Conference of the Music Academy

The 65th Conference of the Music Academy was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha on 18th December, 1991.

The Chief Minister in her inaugural address:-

"Vidwan Thiru. Nedunuri Krishnamoorthy, the President elect of the 65th Annual Conference, Sangita Kalanidhi Tmt. M.S. Subbulakshmi, Thiru. T. Sadasivam, Thiru. T.T. Vasu, President of the Music Academy, Eminent Musicians and Rasikhas, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am grateful to you for the honour that you have conferred upon me by inviting me to inaugurate the 65th Conference of the Music Academy today, before this august gathering of legendary personalities of the world of classical music and connoisseurs of music. The eyes and ears of the country, nay, of the whole world of music rasikhas are focused upon the city of Madras during this sacred month of 'Margazhi', referred to so beautifully in the songs of Saint Andal and Saint Manikkavasagar, and hallowed in the best religious traditions of our land as a month to be devoted to the contemplation and celebration of the Presence of Divinity in all forms of life, through the instruments of "Music and Dance" which are none other than the expressions of the Infinite.

During the last 64 years or so, the Music Academy has unfailingly conducted this celebration, spreading the message of Music, unearthing and propagating its richest treasures and maintaining, at the same time, the essential features of traditional purity and piety which have distinguished Indian Classical Music from the Music of the rest of the World.

On this occasion, I rise to offer my humble tributes to all the musical savants, connoisseurs and innumerable rasikhas who have in their own way contributed to the maintenance of the highest standards of musical excellence, and have done their best to draw the attention of the whole world to the basic and irrefutable fact that Indian Music and Dance forms represent the highest hall-mark of the Indian Culture and Civilisation, and are rooted in the understanding of the Power and Glory of Divinity and its Manifestation in countless forms.

In its essence, Indian Music in all its ramifications including the Hindustani and Carnatic Styles of Music, and the rich Tamil Musical lore, is mystical par excellence. Its origin is in the emanation of NADA that is none other than the innermost attribute of the absolute, Brahman or Narayana or Shiva, or whatever you may wish to call it. The properties of Indian Music are spiritual and encompass religion, philosophy, logic, science, common-sense and sensory impressions. It spans the entire gamut of organic sensation, sense perception, perceptual conception, reasoning, judgement

and spiritual realisation. Indian Music therefore is a refined and cultured system of the most comprehensive kind. Indian Music thus encompasses all the aspects by which the Ultimate can be realised. A popular and anonymous text says: "There is nothing to surpass the singing (Gana) which is 10 million times superior to muttering of Manthra (Japa) which in turn is 10 million times superior to meditation (Dhyana) which again is 10 million times superior to ritualistic worship (Pooja)".

Indian Music is thus Idealistic. It is both an ideal, and an instrument towards reaching that ideal. It is both theory and experience. It is Shastra and Sadhana. It is not merely a structure of tone, with varied permutations and combinations. It is spiritual in nature, in its breath of vision. It may be performed with the help of tones and tunes, but it breathes the supramental atmosphere and raises even the ordinary person who comes under its spell, to the realm of the supra-mental. No doubt, Sahithya - the word, and Swara - the tune combine to produce musical excellence, but in its ultimate experience, Indian Music is symbolisation of man's inner spiritual life which is the expression of Divine Reality. The Raga for example is not merely a structure. It is a living dynamic expression. It is the manifestation of the highest state of mind, and it expresses the aesthetic feelings of love and devotion, fear and anger, hatred and egoism, and all these feelings are used to express man's inmost urge towards the realisation of the Divine Reality.

The greatest contribution of Indian Music is the conceptualisation of Raga. This grand effort, the outcome of the human mind in direct contact with aesthetic beauty is expressed in structured sound. The concept of Raga constitutes the vital force in the design and execution of the classical form of Indian Music. I cannot but express a feeling of awe and wonder at the grandeur of the concept of Raga, which is the result of a thought process, and the combination of tone transformed into concrete forms and expressed with emotion and melody. I can only presume that Ragas were the creation of a Divine inspiration of the innermost being of the great Indian spiritual leaders wherever they lived, whether in the North or South, East or the West.

Over the millennia, the musical ideology went through an evolutionary development. The best musical traditions incorporated the characteristics of ethnocultural influences prevailing in various parts of the country, and that led to the current forms of Indian Music. However, it should not be forgotten that Indian Music derives its inspiration from certain original ideologies and substances. Looked at in this way, through the understanding of this oneness, Indian Music can play and is playing a decisive role in underscoring the cultural and spiritual unity of our great country. In fact, it is a tribute to Indian Music that it has absorbed and assimilated diverse cultural patterns and made them its own. I would urge that this aspect of Indian Music, its role as the unifying

force in the cultural lives of our people must be properly understood and highlighted, and not so much its ethno-cultural distinctions.

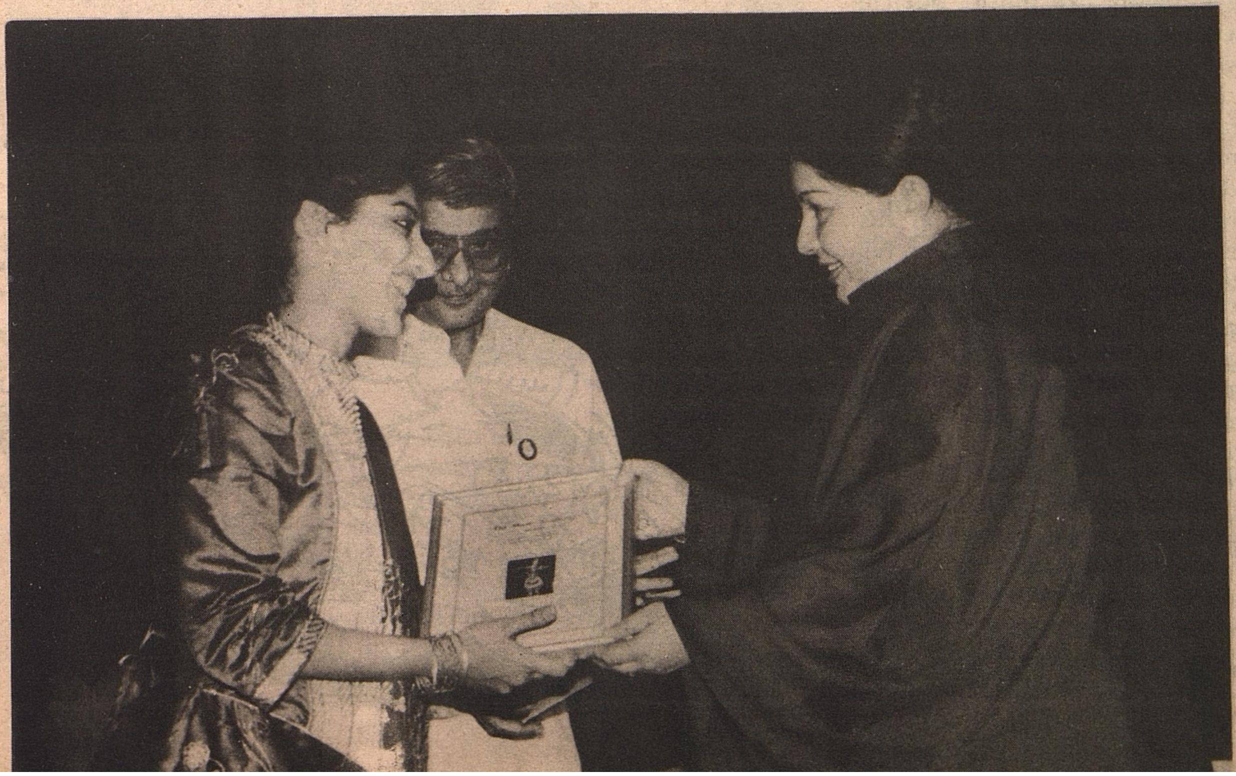
It is time for me to say a few words on Carnatic Music. Believe me when I say that to me, Carnatic Music has represented the highest form of "Nadopasana". In its structural perfection, tonal purity, in its ability to bring out the emotional and evocative expressions through the form of music, Carnatic music is unparalleled. The contribution of the Trinity of Carnatic music, of Swathithirunal and other great savants of South Indian Music, is so well known that it needs no special mention here. These savants have left behind a rich treasure of compositions, and these compositions provide the grammar and meaning for the word "Bhakthi", and as such these compostions have an eternal place in our lives.

A galaxy of great Musicians with cultivated tastes, innate musical abilities and disciplined traditions have carried on the torch of Carnatic music sampradhaya on the road of Bhakthi and Sangita, preserving and enriching it wherever necessary. When I look at the renowned musicians seated in front of me, those who have contributed their best and dedicated their lives to the cause of Carnatic music, I feel like expressing my profound sense of gratitude to all of them, for the happiness and peace that they have helped to bring into our lives. I pray to God that every one of them should live for a long time and light the torch of music in the hearts of the younger generation so that they, in turn, can shine and carry on the glorious tradition of their masters.

When we speak of Carnatic music, we should not forget to mention the contribution of the people of Tamil Nadu from ancient times to the realm of music. The famous work Pura Nanooru, shows that Tamil people had acquired remarkable skill in music from an early period of time. According to Pattinappalai, the people of Kaviripoom Pattinam often assembled in the central square, the common place of the city, in order to enjoy music and dance recitals.

Bards of the Sangam age moved all over Tamil Nadu singing in praise of the Kings. The Tamil word "Isai" is itself significant. It denotes that which moves or melts people's hearts. In the Sangam age itself, seven notes or swaras in the musical notation had been defined. The numerous subdivisions of these notations had also been worked out - a remarkable testimony to the intensive development of music by the early Tamil people. Silappathikaram is a treasure house of information on the rich music and dance traditions of that time. Quite a large variety of musical instruments were also used right from the Sangam age. Many musicians of high repute were patronised by the Kings and Rulers.

The pinnacle of development of Tamil music was achieved during the time of the Nayanmars and Alwars, and the great hymns of these servants of God evoke some of the deepest emotions of Bhakthi in the hearts of the people who are blessed enough to hear them. The Thevaram hymns can be said to constitute the first regular musical compositions set in definite Raga and Thala. The Raga concept is evident for the first time in Thevaram hymns, a



great advancement in the realm of music. It is interesting to note that almost all the original Panns (Ragas) exist even now. The hymns of the Nayanmars and Alwars had a profound impact on the lives of the Tamil people. The great G.U. Pope was so moved by the sight of hundreds of people proceeding to the temple in the Trichy Fort every day, singing hymns of Thiruvasagam, that it led him to study Thiruvasagam, and eventually to translate it into English. There are inscriptions of the grant of land and money to Othuvars and others, for rendering Thevaram hymns in the temples daily. These hymns were sung to music originally by large numbers of people according to given Ragas, but over a period of time, such renderings were confined to a class of people known as Othuvars, whom you may find in the temples even today. The hymns sung in moving Tamil filled the hearts of the people with devotion, so much so that Bhakthi became synonymous with music. God loves music. The Supreme Being is of the form of Music. Therefore the best method of pleasing Him is by singing hymns in praise of Him. Not only does the Almighty like music, but He also uses music to please his own devotees. There is a beautiful song in the Thevaram of Thirunavukkarasar, in which it is stated that Lord Shiva rendered "Samavedha" and danced to appease Parvathi, when she became angry at his keeping the maiden Ganga on his head.

சூடினார் கங்கையாளைச்
சூடிய துழனி கேட்டு, அங்கு
ஊடினாள் நங்கையாளும்;
ஊடலை ஒழிக்க வேண்டி
பாடினார் சாமவேதம்;
பாடிய பாணியாலே
ஆடினார் கெடிலவேலி
அதிகை வீரட்டனாரே!

—அப்பர் தேவாரம்.

The Music Academy had been rendering yeoman service to the cause of music. Its Patrons, Presidents and the Secretaries during the last half a century or more, have played a memorable role in helping to preserve, maintain and nourish the best traditions of Indian Music. In the Saga of the growth of the Music Academy as a world class institution, the names of many selfless workers have to be inscribed in letters of gold. Let me join you in paying my sincere, heartfelt tributes to all of them.

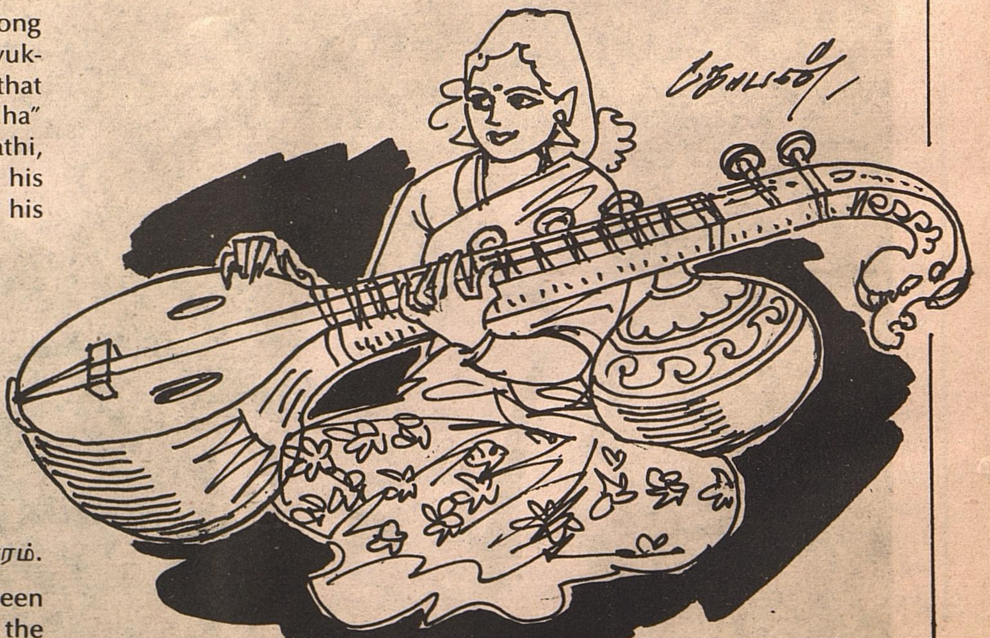
We are now passing through difficult times. The old order is changing, yielding place to new. The rich and ancient cultural values are crumbling all over the world. The responsibility is upon all of us to preserve the best cultural traditions so that posterity will not accuse us of negligence. The musical savants who are assembled here have an even greater role to play in this regard. The best of our traditions have to be preserved and passed on to the younger generation. It is in your hands to enthuse the younger generation with zeal and vision, to motivate them to understand and to appreciate, so that they can carry on the mantle of this hoary tradition on their shoulders, and enrich it by their own "Manodharma" and innovativeness. I have no doubt that you will do this. I am sure our country will continue to derive its inspiration from the musical geniuses who are assembled here.

I offer my felicitations to the President Thiru T.T.Vasu, and the Office bearers of this great institution, and the experts of Carnatic music, in whose hands the destiny of this great form of music has been entrusted. I express the fond prayer that your services will continue to be available for many more years to come.

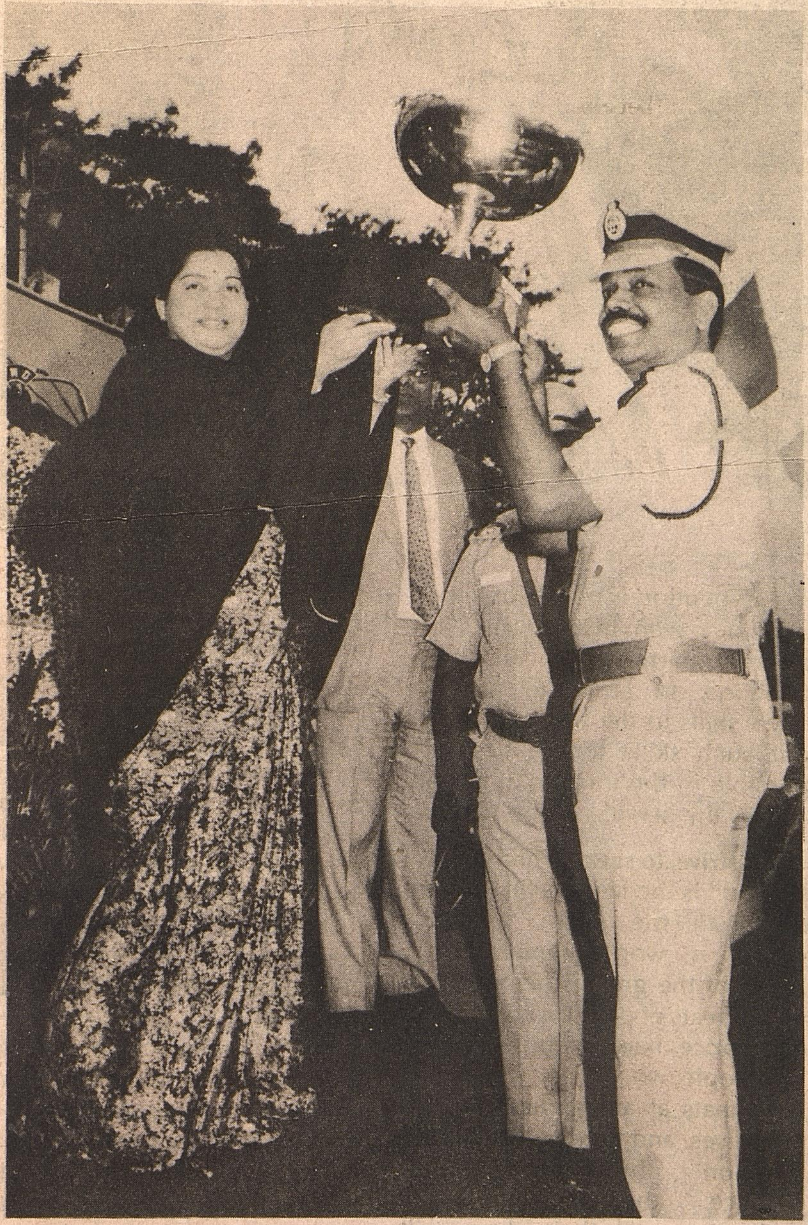
I have great pleasure in inaugurating this 65th Conference of the Music Academy."

The Chief Minister announced a personal donation of Rs.1 lakh to fund the Academy's proposal to make its Teachers' College of Music, a residential institution.

The Chief Minister also presented the Dr. M.G.R. Award of the Academy to Selvi. Lakshmi Gopalaswamy of Bangalore, who was adjudged the best dancer in the 10-day 'Spirit of Youth Music and Dance Festival' held in October '91.



ALL INDIA POLICE DUTY MEET



The closing ceremony of the 35th All-India Police Duty Meet 1991, was held at Rajarathinam Stadium in Madras on 10th December, 1991. The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha distributed the Prime Minister's Police Medal for Life Saving to 11 persons and prizes to winners in various competitions.

On arrival of the Hon'ble Chief Minister the Director General of Police Thiru S.Sripal, IPS introduced the higher officials to her.

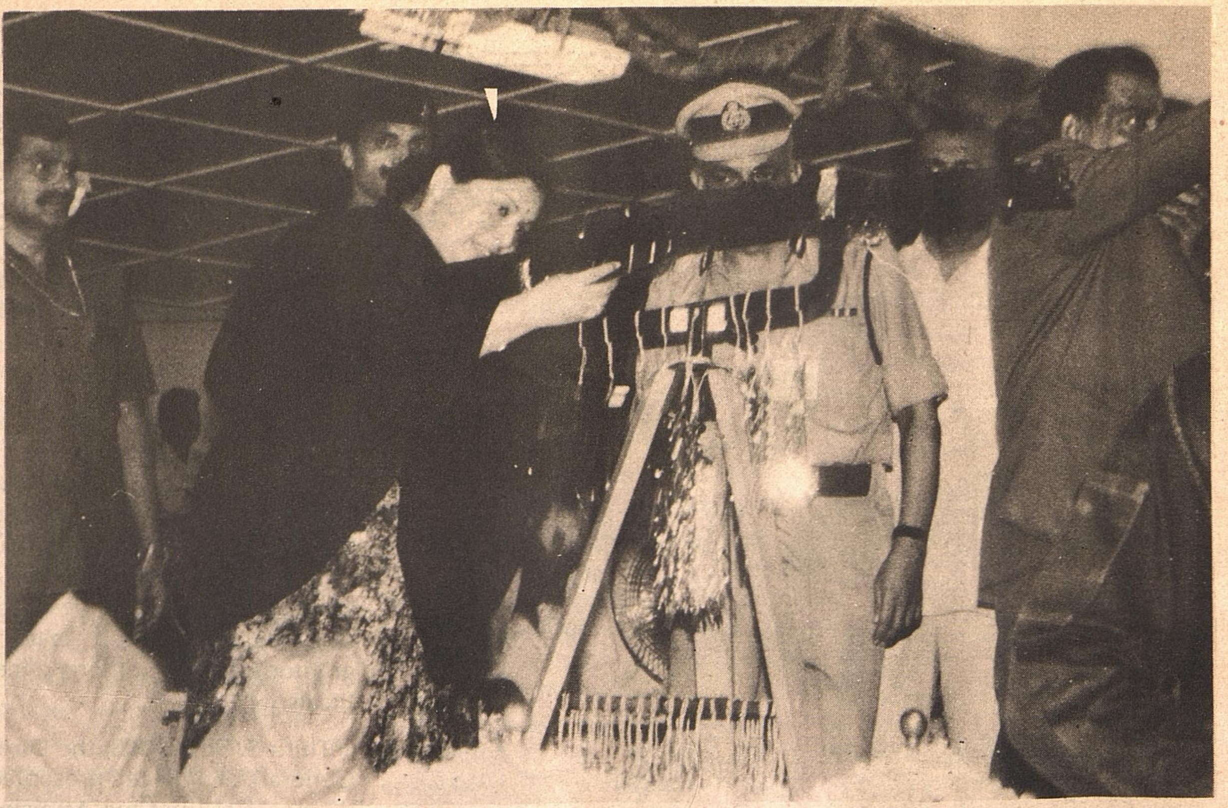
She witnessed the ceremonial parade and took the salute during the march past of the various teams from different States.

Thiru S.C. Mehta, special Director of the Intelligence Bureau and Secretary, Central Co-ordination Committee of the Meet welcomed the guests. He thanked the Chief Minister for instituting a new silver trophy for best State shooting team and paid his gratitude to the senior police officials.

Thiru S. Sripal, IPS, the Director General of Police presented a memento to the Chief Minister on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Police Force. Then the Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha presented the Prime Minister's Police Medal to police personnel from different States for their bravery in saving lives, and gave away the trophies to the teams that came out winning in various competitions. After distributing the trophies she delivered the following speech:

"I am deeply grateful to the Chairman of the Central Co-ordination Committee of the XXXV All India Police Duty Meet, and the Director-General of Police, Tamil Nadu, for the opportunity they have given me to preside over the Valedictory function and to distribute the prizes on the occasion of the XXXV All India Police Duty Meet.

I wish to convey my greetings and best wishes to the Members of the Police Force numbering more than 1800, who have come from various States to participate in the competitions held during this meet, and to many more



Police Officers and others who have helped in the successful conduct of this meet, which is being held at Madras for the third time since its inception, the last one having taken place during 1974.

During the last few days members of the Police Force from all over the country have vied with each other in order to prove their skills and excellence in the efficient discharge of their duties. I learn that members of the Public have had occasion to witness the displays of skills and talents of a very high order by the Policemen, in the use of aids for investigation, wireless communication, forensic science, shooting, First-aid and the like, which constitute the essential asscessories in the proper functioning of the police force.

I congratulate all the prize winners and would like to advise others who have not been so fortunate to practise their skills even more assiduously so that they may prove their excellence during the next competitions. Winning prizes in competition is no doubt important, but even more vital is the desire to participate in such competitions, to strive to improve one's skills in the process, and to put such skills to the best use possible in the interest of society and in the service of the nation.

"To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield" is the famous line of Tennyson in the poem **"Ulysses"**, which is worth remembering. Some of the greatest feats in this world, feats of physical and mental endurance, have been performed by people who never dreamt of such feats at any earlier stage in their lives, and they have achieved this only through their persistence, their singleminded dedication and their sheer will power. I have no doubt that frequent organisation of such duty meets, particularly for the policemen, helps to sharpen their skills, to upgrade their knowledge, and to raise their levels of excellence.

Vast changes have come about in the duties and responsibilities of the police force during the last few decades. The policeman of today has to face many arduous tasks unknown to his predecessors in the past. Social, political and economical changes, closer interaction among many people in various countries owing to improvement in communication and transport, the rising expectations of the people, and the growing culture of modernisaton, have made the task of the policemen, particularly with regard to prevention and control of crime, extremely difficult and complicated. The policeman of today simply cannot make do with the skills of his fore-fathers. His skills, technique, knowledge and aids for investigation have to match the requirements of the changing times. Out-dated methods and equipment simply will not do. It is in this context that upgrading skills becomes vastly important.

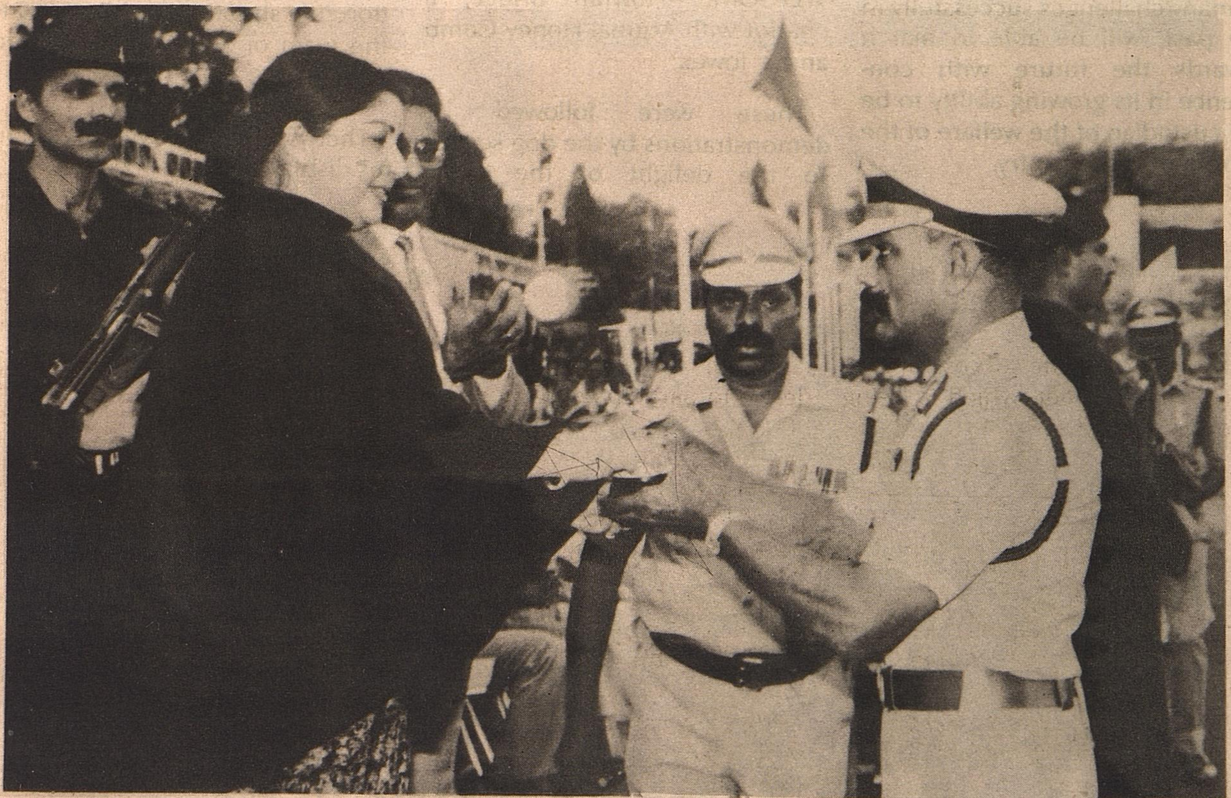
It is the responsibility of the Governments, both at the State

and the Centre, to provide the Police force with modern equipment, and the latest and most sophisticated aids for investigation, which will fulfil the requirement of containing crime. It is also the responsibility of the police force to use equipment and aids to investigation as quickly and efficiently as possible, so that human resources and material resources can be well combined in order to contain the evil forces which are out to wreak havoc in the country.

fields of Science and Technology, and the growing use of computers in the management of crime, and in gearing the communication system to a high degree of accuracy. The Tamil Nadu Police has been provided with excellent facilities in the Forensic Science Department of the State, which is one of the oldest institutions of its kind in Asia, and one of the best organised in the country. The State Government has rightly recognised the need to modernise and up-

re-establishing a feeling of confidence in the minds of the people of our State, in the capacity of the Tamil Nadu Police to maintain law and order firmly and with justice.

However, all of us still have a long way to go. Thanks to many undesirable influences, our problems in the maintenance of law and order, and in the prevention and control of crime may, perhaps, be extremely complicated in the coming years, unless we con-



The Government of Tamil Nadu has well understood this requirement and has stood in the fore front in equipping the Tamil Nadu Police force with modern aids to investigation, communication and transport facilities. The Tamil Nadu Police Force leads all other States in respect of police communication. The organisation of the Police Radio Branch in Tamil Nadu is one of the best of its kind. The Tamil Nadu Police has fully availed of the developments in the

date the State Police Force in terms of weapons, ammunition, mobility and training in the upgrading of skills, and has spared no effort in improving the resources of the Tamil Nadu Police in this regard.

On this happy occasion, I must record my sincere appreciation of the Tamil Nadu Police Force for its success in containing the Sri Lankan militants, in breaking their sinister hold over the State, and in

tinuously upgrade the inherent skills and resources of the police force. This problem is going to be a common one for all the States in the country. We need a great deal of finance for this purpose. Many States are not in a position to meet the financial needs to modernise their respective police forces adequately.

It is therefore necessary for the Government of India to appreciate this situation, and provide financial assistance to needy State

Governments with a view to modernising the police force, particularly in States which have very difficult problems to face due to the activities of militants and terrorists.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken this matter up with the Central Government. I hope that the Central Government will respond favourably to this request.

Once again, I thank you for inviting me to be your Chief guest this evening. I am happy to be with you today, with the thought that the police force which has faced so many challenges successfully in the past, will be able to march towards the future with confidence in its growing ability to be the custodian of the welfare of the people of this country.

I extend my best wishes to you, and express the hope that the Police Force of India will prove to be one of the best in the world, and a Force of which this country can be justifiably proud."

After delivering her speech, the Chief Minister triggered off the evening programme by firing a rifle.

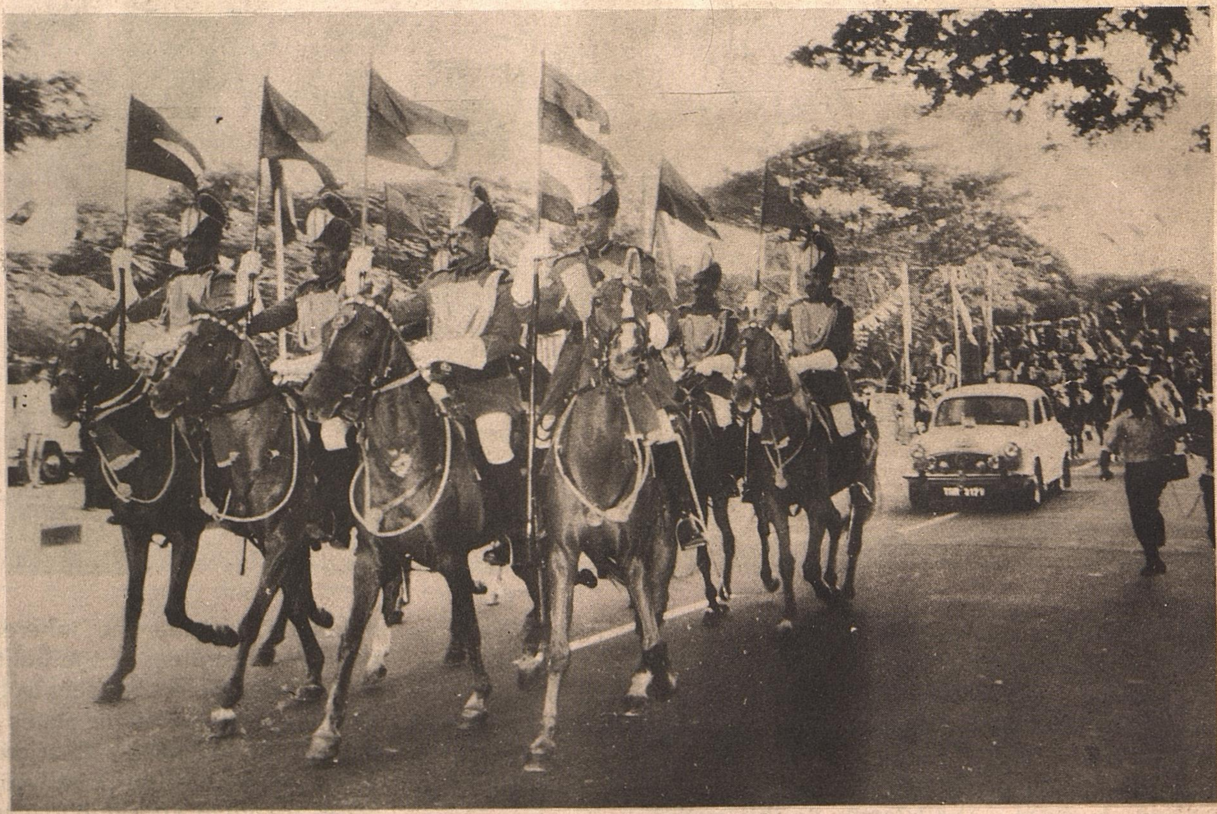
The first programme was the demonstration of mass physical training (PT) and formation of pyramids by the State RPF men. There were models of the word WELCOME, Howrah Bridge, a chariot with Arjuna, Honey Comb and a Tower.

These were followed by demonstrations by the dog squad. To the delight of the Chief Minister a dog presented her with a bouquet.

Later, again the State RPF men delighted the audience by exhibiting slogans 'Long Live CM', 'TNP', 'THANK YOU' and 'JAIHIND', with lighted torches.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha, as her personal reward gave Rs. 10,000 to the Tamil Nadu Police team that won the trophy in revolver shooting, Rs.5,000 each to the teams of BSF and CRPF who had won laurels in kneeling position rifle shooting, and Rs.10,000 to the team of State Railway Protection Force.

The Meet ended with a colourful display of fire works.



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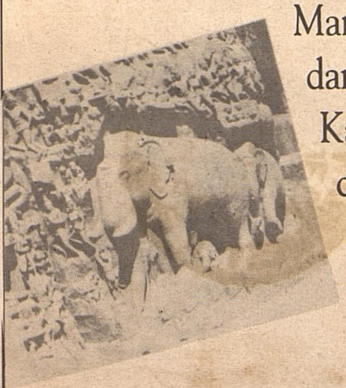

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